

**ABSTRACT**

A liquid-crystal cell has a wall able to impart both the preferred tilt and preferred azimuthal alignment to the liquid-crystal molecules in use in the cell. The wall is made by exposing a material on it to oblique radiation which is circularly polarised or unpolarized, wherein multiple local zones of the material are exposed to radiation, the oblique angle of the radiation being uniform within each local zone but different between two or more zones and wherein locally different oblique radiation is applied in one radiation step by interposing a micro element array between the source of the radiation and the material.